

ROCKINGHAM  
POST-DISPATCH

Isaac S. London

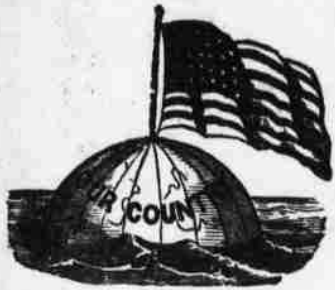
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

The Post established January 8th, 1909.  
The Dispatch established Jan. 1st, 1916.  
Bought by Isaac S. London in November, 1917, and consolidated under name of Rockingham Post-Dispatch Dec. 1st, 1917, with first issue Dec. 6th, 1917.

Published Every Thursday

Subscription Rates \$1.50 Per Year

Entered at the post office at Rockingham, N. C. as second class mail matter.



THIS Christmas a great number of War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamps were given to children by their parents. The government urges that this plan be kept up through the entire year. Whenever parents have money to give their children let them be sure to give it in the form of five dollar War Saving Stamps, or twenty-five cent Thrift Stamps, and see that the Stamps are pasted on the proper card.

It will be an easy matter for children themselves to earn four dollars worth of twenty-five cent Thrift Stamps, only sixteen in number. All parents will realize how much better it is for the children to save money than to waste it buying unnecessary things. If parents will only make the effort, they can soon teach their children to feel the same enthusiasm in buying Thrift Stamps that they experience in any other interesting work or play. Could there be a finer sight than to see children competing in the game of thrift? Their parents can put this stimulus into their lives, and the coming men and women of America will be finer citizens on account of it.

"The child is father to the man," and the parents of America can make the growing generation the finest and strongest that the country has yet produced if they will urge upon their children the importance of their part in America's great undertaking at this time.

Make up your mind for this year you will speak nothing but good words for your town or community. If something happens you don't like, keep your mouth shut and go about quietly attempting to correct the evil. But don't sit around your grocery stove or drug store counter and knock. The man who said a knock was as good as a boost was trying to make the sore place feel pleasant.

It may have been that when King Richard wildly exclaimed, "A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse"—that he was hungry and didn't intend to beat it. At any rate, some of the larger cities have thrown off the lid on horse meat, and the inhabitants are cordially invited to swat the high cost of living by fattening up the old, played-out horses and slaughter 'em—and then sit down to a Cannibal feast.

THE inimitable humorist George Ade is credited with the following bit of advice to Americans between the ages of 30 and 50 on "how to help win the war:"

"Abe Martin met a feller down in Brown County that never heard of Tony Pastor, and we have taxpayer in our township who thinks the world is flat, and you can find cabaret performers in New York City who don't believe there is such a place as Iowa, and clairvoyants still find customers, and you can name people who will consult a patent-medicine 'ad.' in preference to a doctor, and old Jethro Tiltford, over in Shelby Township, carries a dried-up potato to keep off the rheumatism.

In every community you will find a contrary-minded sediment of the human race—people who keep themselves somewhat in evidence by noisily denying facts which are self-evident to all of their neighbors who happen to be in the full enjoyment of sanity.

They are somewhat like frogs, i. e., they make an awful noise in proportion to their number.

Now, if you will take the trouble to check up in your immediate neighborhood the people who, from the beginning of the war, have been full of doubts and questions and false alarms, you will find that they are few in number and of precious little importance, except as atmospheric disturbances.

Also, did it ever occur to you:

That the man who had bought most liberally of Government bonds never questions the safety of his security?

That the woman who was knitting the most socks and sweaters never believed the silly stories about the Red Cross being a crooked institution?

That the soldier boy about to board a transport and join his comrades of France and Great Britain never was known to doubt the sincerity of the men with whom he was soon to join shoulders?

No, indeed!

All the walls and misgivings and fish stories are put into circulation by a few picayune outsiders who were just built to be obstructionists and somehow can't help it.

They are in a class with the Tories who feasted the aristocratic British officers while Washington's Army starved at Valley Forge.

They are the kind of people who oppose public improvements, will not buy tickets for the Chautauqua, criticize the minister if he smiles in public, and attach the presumption of guilt to any woman attacked by scandal.

They are the small bores and the two-by-fours, the gnats, the sand flies, the ticks put on earth to teach good people the quality of patience.

The time has come to ignore them.

If we can not lock them up for safe-keeping, at least we can shut them out from our daily program and go ahead with the important work laid out for us.

This is no time to waste precious hours and vocal energy in trying to prove that two and two make four, and water is wet, and the sun sets in the West, and the mad dog of Prussianism must be muzzled.

Do not try to convince the miniature La Follettes, because they do not wish to be convinced. They derive a bilious comfort from being different. They have learned that no cloud has a silver lining; it is festooned on the interior with crepe.

If all the optimists along your street should arise some morning into a world bedecked with dew sparkles and exclaim in unison, "What a beautiful, sun-shiny day!" then some two-legged crab would emerge from behind a lilac bush and say, "Yes, but I think it'll rain before night."

If you find a banana skin on the threshold of patriotic opportunity, kick it aside and do not permit yourself to become fussed.

The stalwart men and women of middle age are to keep the home fires burning during the supreme ordeal now at hand.

They are to raise the crops, speed the factories, collect the taxes, organize the home guards, conserve the wheat and meat and sugar, back up the Red Cross, peddle the Liberty Bonds, write the letters, pack the comfort kits, and stand by for orders at all times.

If a busy worker feels some one tugging at his coat tail, the thing to do is to kick straight back and kick hard, but do not waste time in looking around.

By the way, here is an important tip for every man past 30. Do not tell around that you would be keen to enlist if you were just a little younger.

Some of the men just under 30 will have their doubts, and even those who believe you will not find entertainment in your conversation."

The collector of internal revenue for the Eastern District, J. W. Bailey, last week stated that in 1911 there were 290 seizures of distilleries in this State by revenue officers; in 1912, 462; in 1914, 612; 1915, 780; 1916, 910; 1917, 680. In the nation at large there were 2232 distilleries destroyed the past year; from this it is seen that North Carolina furnished more than 30 per cent

of them. Since 1910 there have been 19,939 raids in the nation, and this State furnished 4,339 of them.

The above sort of gives a black eye to our good old State. But it is information that every sheriff, constable and law-abiding citizen should ponder over. With the shipment of whiskey black-listed, it is a foregone conclusion that blockading will vastly increase, especially since the price is anywhere from \$20 to \$30 a gallon. The lawless element will take long chances now in operating, and it is up to every officer and citizen to co-operate in stamping the blighting evil out. A short run and a long term for every person engaging in the nefarious business!

WITH the severe cold weather of the past week, and the consequent big fires for those so fortunate as to have wood and coal, the danger of a conflagration is especially great. Our people cannot be too careful about their fires in cold weather. Once a dwelling catches fire in such weather there is no chance of saving it, for hydrants are frozen and fighting equipment almost impossible to handle.

And speaking of fire losses, did you know that the loss by fire in the United States during November totaled \$20,198,025 as against \$19,898,450 for the same month of the year before? And that for the eleven months to December 1st the loss was \$241,200,340, as compared with \$209,379,670 for the same eleven months of 1916, and for 1915 \$182,826,200? And much of this fire loss can be prevented by fire education, by simple precautions and common-sense carefulness.

The week of February 4 is set aside by the department of justice for registration of the half-million unnaturalized Germans in continental United States by police and postmasters, in pursuance of President Wilson's alien enemy proclamation directing this action as a means of minimizing the danger from enemy sympathizers in the United States.

Registration will involve the gathering of detailed information concerning the business, relatives and habits of every German, together with his photograph and finger prints. After registering he must carry a certificate card and may not change his place of residence without approval of the police or postmaster. Violation of the regulations will be punishable by internment for the war.

The orders do not apply to German women, nor to any persons under 14 years of age, because these are not classed as alien enemies by law.

It makes not a bit of difference who you are or what you are, this town has done more for you than you have done for it. You may be rich, or you may be poor, or just in moderate circumstances, but in either case your home town has done much for you that you have never recognized or repaid. This statement is worthy of serious consideration by every citizen who believes in giving as he receives. If you give it the consideration it deserves you will get busy right away and do your full share towards making this a bigger and better and more prosperous city in every way.

Be forward looking. Let the dying year of 1917 be buried with the dead past. There is not an opportunity of any kind in the days that have gone. "The waters that have past will never turn the mill."

## A Word of Appreciation.

The following is an excerpt from a letter just received by the editor from a Post-Dispatch subscriber; such expressions are encouraging:

"I have read with delight the Rockingham Post-Dispatch and I want to congratulate you upon the splendid paper you are getting out. I am agreeably surprised to see a publication of so many big features. In my opinion your paper would do credit to a town of double the population of Rockingham. Your editorial page is good reading and your news items are new and spicy. Your advertisements are catchy and are sure to bring results. The arrangement of the entire is admirable. It is an all-around good paper and I most heartily congratulate you."

## Newspapers of the Seventies.

Rev. W. F. Sanford, M. E. pastor of seven churches radiating from Thomasville, was a Post-Dispatch caller yesterday. He came to the city Tuesday and will return today.

Rev. Mr. Sanford began working in his early life as a "devil" and is ending as a preacher. About 1871 a paper was established here by Dougald Stewart, known as the Observer. This was democratic in politics and the following year a radical paper was established by Wm. R. Terry, known as the Spirit of the South. Mr. Sanford, then a lad of nine years, started to work for the Observer as office "devil." After two years, his father, Mr. Frank Sanford, bought the Observer and became editor, with young Sanford in the mechanical department. The name of the paper was changed to the Pee Dee Bee. This paper was continued for about nine years, until about 1882, when it was sold to Robert Knight, of Wadesboro, who changed the name to the Rocket.

The paper was published on the same site as the Post-Dispatch is now published, only the building at that time was a wooden one, while the present location of the Post-Dispatch is of brick.

The editor would be pleased to have a complete history of the various papers published here, a description of their numerous vicissitudes, of their ups and downs. And if anyone knows of any of the files of these old papers, we would be pleased to have them.

## The Letter "E."

Someone has advanced the opinion that the letter "E" is the most unfortunate character in the English alphabet, because it is always out of Cash, forever in Debt, never out of Danger and in Hell all the time.

But we call the attention to the fact, says the Charleston Gazette, that "E" is never in War and always in Peace. It is the beginning of Existence, the commencement of Ease and the end of Trouble. Without it there would be no Meat, no Life and no Heaven. It is the center of Honesty, makes Love perfect, and without it there would be no Editors, Devils or News.

Alex J. Field, recently appointed State Librarian, and editor of the State Journal, has been appointed to a position in the legal department of the United States Shipping Board. He will leave Raleigh to accept his new work in Washington. The management of his paper will be placed in other hands.

At the Allied conference in Paris held a few weeks ago, it was decided to hasten the building of ships and quicken the dispatch of the troops across the water. This information was given out by the War Department Wednesday. It is the men that are most needed. The Allies are prepared to give them all the necessary equipment, so there need be no delay in sending them over. Co-ordination of action is the key-word now. Troop movements to France will be vastly accelerated, and will not be delayed by reason of any shortage of equipment that may exist over here. The truce on the Russian front has released corps after corps of German troops, who have been switched over to the French and Belgium fronts, thereby rendering any Allied offensive impractical for the present, until with the aid of American forces they again gain a superiority in men.

The situation as regards Russia is still uncertain. The truce between the Bolshevik faction, just now uppermost in Russia, and the Germans began Dec. 25th, and peace parleys will be formally begun tomorrow, the 4th. However, informal conferences have been held daily by the envoys, but the latest indications seem to show that the demands and terms of the Germans are so rapacious and unreasonable that even the bribed and "peace"-hungry Bolsheviks may refuse to accept them. In the meantime, the Cossacks in southern Russia are rallying to the standard of Gen. Kaledines, and it would not be surprising if they yet succeeded in overthrowing the Bolshevik gang of socialists, and redeeming their country again join forces with the Allies in the just war upon German Autocracy.

FOOD ADMINISTRATION PREPARING TO  
PUT SCREWS ON UNSCRUPULOUS DEALERS

Rumblings of Impatience Being Heard Around Headquarters. Selfish and Unpatriotic Consumers Will be Dealt With Also—Fine of \$5,000 and Two Years' Imprisonment Penalty for Hoarding.—Administrator Henry A. Page Tightening the Reins.

Raleigh.—Notwithstanding its oft-repeated and proven assertions that its attitude toward all dealers in foodstuffs is first of all friendly, and that it is desirous of co-operating with all handlers of foodstuffs, rumblings of impatience at petty profiteering are beginning to be heard around the quarters of the Food Administration in this city.

That Food Administrator Henry A. Page has at heart the interests of the producers and handlers of foodstuffs has been demonstrated by his action in straightening out the wheat situation in the state and by his attitude toward all wholesalers and retailers in their respective conferences here; but Mr. Page is not famous either for his patience in the face of injury, nor for his forbearance when laws are being violated and people oppressed through the greed of grasping or unpatriotic dealers.

Where wanton violations of the law and policy of the Food Administration are found, it is anticipated that the offending dealers will be punished by the simple procedure of putting them out of business. Where profiteers are shrewd enough to stay barely within the bounds they will be put in a class of suspects and watched.

In order to give the consumer better protection and to secure from the consumer more effective co-operation, the Food Administration contemplates offering to the papers throughout the state occasional price lists showing the average cost of staple food commodities to the dealers and the price at which dealers should be able to buy. The publication of these prices should be of inestimable value to the people of the State.

## What's in Store for Hoarders.

As a result of reports that have reached it from two counties in the State the Food Administration has instructed all County Food Administrators to investigate and report promptly any evidences of hoarding of foodstuffs. Reports that have been investigated so far were found to have originated as the result of the practice of some farmers in the two counties mentioned of purchasing most of their food supplies in large quantities after marketing their crops. Even this

GENERAL NEWS  
ITEMS

If bad habits were as easily overcome as good ones the millennium would be ancient history. Before a fellow can get settled down after Christmas others come along and want him to settle up.

The price of soap isn't worrying the small boy. He's perfectly willing to economize to any extent necessary.

It is a safe bet that the addition of the woman vote in the United States will not add to the certainty of pre-election predictions.

The fellow who remarked to his best girl, "It's as plain as the nose on your face," now wonders why she foxtrots with the other fellow.

Fire Tuesday night destroyed a large warehouse at Charlotte belonging to the Buckeye Cotton Oil mill, destroying 6,000 tons of cottonseed; the loss is \$200,000, covered by insurance.

Three soldiers died at Camp Greene Tuesday of pneumonia. The three make 20 deaths that have occurred at the camp since its establishment—a small ratio for so many assembled.

The working hours of clerks in the Interior Department Building at Washington have been changed to run from 8:45 to 4:15 instead of 9 to 4:30, to relieve congestion in street railway cars of the overcrowded capital.

The laboratory and operating room buildings at the base hospital at Camp Greene, Charlotte, were destroyed by fire early Sunday morning, the loss being \$75,000, represented chiefly by destroyed laboratory apparatus. A defective flue caused the fire. 900 soldiers were patients in the other buildings of the hospital, but these were not disturbed as the absence of wind prevented these buildings from igniting.